improvement in the rural development schemes that may be effected by these Committees.

Allocations for poverty alleviation schemes

3542. SHRIMATI N. P. DURGA : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the poverty alleviation schemes of the Union Government are falling flat according to a Report submitted to the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the first week of March, 2003.

(b) if so, the details of schemes which have failed to reach the needy;

(c) the reasons for the such failure;

(d) money that has been allocated to Poverty Alleviation Schemes during the last three years, scheme-wise, year-wise and State-wise; and

(e) the spending of the States, State-wise and year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ANNASAHEB M. K. RAUL): (a) In a report submitted to the Supreme Court in connection with the Writ Petition No. 196 of 2001 filed by the People's Union of Civil Liberties *Vs* Union of India (represented by the Department of Food & Public Distribution) and Others on 27th February 2003, the Commissioner of the Court has observed that certain poverty alleviation schemes are not reaching the poor in full measure.

(b) The Report mentions Mid-day Meal Scheme, Sampooma Gramin Rozgar Yojana, Targeted Public Distribution Scheme, Old Age Pension and Annapuma Scheme as having failed to reach the poor in full measure.

(c) The major reasons for poor reach of these Schemes cited in the Report are as under;

(i) Mid-day meal Scheme:—Financial, Logistic and Administrative.

(ii) SGRY:—Financial crunch in the States making it difficult to allocate their share of SGRY funds; Untimely delivery of grains by FCI citing lack of stock, delay in transportation; and the States having no effective control over the finances allotted to the Panchayats directly under SGRY making it difficult to ensure its utilisation.

(iii) Targeted Public Distribution Scheme:—Non-issuance of ration cards.

(iv) Old Age Pension & Annapuma Scheme :—A large number of eligible needy people have been left uncovered by the two schemes. In many States, the existing allocation for the two schemes have not been used fully.

(d) and (e) The funds allocated and utilised under the major poverty alleviation schemes of the Ministry of Rural Development during the last three years /'. *e.* 2000-2001,2001 -2002 and 2002-2003 are given in the Annexure. [See Appendix 198 Annexure No. 15]

Old age pension

†3543. SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) The number of senior citizens in Uttar Pradesh and Uttaranchal getting pensions under 'Old Age Pension Scheme';

(b) Whether Government are aware that only few persons are getting the benefits under the scheme;

(c) Whether it is a fact that discrimination is being made on large scale in providing pensions in Pauri Garhwal in Uttaranchal and Azamgarh and Mau districts in Uttar Pradesh;

(d) The steps being taken by Government to ensure the full benefits of the scheme to the people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL. DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ANNAS AHEB M. K. PATIL): (a) and (b) The Ministry' of Rural Development had been administering the Centrally-sponsored National Social Assistance Programme consisting of the National Old Age Pension Scheme and the National Family Benefit Scheme until the Programme was transferred to the State Plan alongwith the Annapuma Scheme with effect from the financial year 2002-2003. No Centrally-sponsored Scheme on Old Age Pension is now being administered by the Ministry of Rural Development.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.